

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/578,338  
Attorney Docket No. 10191/4578  
Response to Office Action of July 25, 2008

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-12. (Canceled).

13. (Currently Amended) A torque control element for a steering system in a motor vehicle, for controlling a steering device, comprising:

at least two electrical units; and

power supply units, each of the electrical units being assigned a respective one of power supply units, and each being connected via at least one fuse, wherein the at least two electrical units operate independently of one another.

14. (Previously Presented) The torque control element as recited in claim 13, wherein at least one of the electrical units includes a processing unit and an output-stage unit which cooperate with each other.

15. (Previously Presented) The torque control element as recited in claim 14, wherein the processing unit and the output-stage unit of at least one of the electrical units are connected in each case via one of the fuses to the power supply unit assigned to the electrical unit.

16. (Previously Presented) The torque control element as recited in claim 14, wherein at least one sensor configured to monitor a steering device is assigned to the processing unit, and at least one actuator configured to control the steering device is assigned to the output-stage unit.

17. (Previously Presented) The torque control element as recited in claim 13, wherein the torque control element is a manual-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring a steering handle.

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18. (Previously Presented) The torque control element as recited in claim 13, wherein the torque control element is a wheel-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring at least one steered vehicle wheel.

19. (Previously Presented) A steering system, comprising:

a first and a second torque control element, each of the first and second torque control elements including at least two electrical units; and

power supply units, each of the electrical units being assigned a respective one of power supply units, and each being connected via at least one fuse;

wherein the first torque control element is a manual-torque control element for a steering handle, and the second torque control element is a wheel-torque control element for at least one steered vehicle wheel.

20. (Previously Presented) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein the steering handle and the at least one steered vehicle wheel are connected to each other via an electronic controlled system.

21. (Previously Presented) The steering system as recited in claim 20, wherein the steering system makes a mechanical coupling of the steering handle to the steered vehicle wheels available in the event the electronic controlled system fails.

22. (Previously Presented) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein all electrical units are accommodated in a single housing.

23. (Previously Presented) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein the electrical units of each torque control element are accommodated in one housing.

24. (Previously Presented) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein each of the electrical units is accommodated in a separate housing.

25. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein at least one of the electrical units includes a processing unit and an output-stage unit which cooperate with each other.

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26. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 25, wherein the processing unit and the output-stage unit of at least one of the electrical units are connected in each case via one of the fuses to the power supply unit assigned to the electrical unit.

27. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 25, wherein at least one sensor configured to monitor a steering device is assigned to the processing unit, and at least one actuator configured to control the steering device is assigned to the output-stage unit.

28. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein the torque control element is a manual-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring a steering handle.

29. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein the torque control element is a wheel-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring at least one steered vehicle wheel.

30. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 19, wherein:

at least one of the electrical units includes a processing unit and an output-stage unit which cooperate with each other,

the processing unit and the output-stage unit of at least one of the electrical units are connected in each case via one of the fuses to the power supply unit assigned to the electrical unit, and

at least one sensor configured to monitor a steering device is assigned to the processing unit, and at least one actuator configured to control the steering device is assigned to the output-stage unit.

31. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 30, wherein the torque control element is a manual-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring a steering handle.

32. (New) The steering system as recited in claim 30, wherein the torque control element is a wheel-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring at least one steered vehicle wheel.

33. (New) The torque control element as recited in claim 13, wherein:

at least one of the electrical units includes a processing unit and an output-stage unit which cooperate with each other,

the processing unit and the output-stage unit of at least one of the electrical units are connected in each case via one of the fuses to the power supply unit assigned to the electrical unit, and

at least one sensor configured to monitor a steering device is assigned to the processing unit, and at least one actuator configured to control the steering device is assigned to the output-stage unit.

34. (New) The torque control element as recited in claim 33, wherein the torque control element is a manual-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring a steering handle.

35. (New) The torque control element as recited in claim 33, wherein the torque control element is a wheel-torque control element for at least one of controlling and monitoring at least one steered vehicle wheel.